

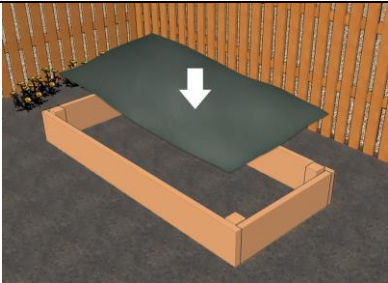
How To Build a 4'x4' Raised Garden Bed

Directions: Use the following Step-by-Step plan to help you create a 4'x4' raised community garden bed for your school.

Materials you will need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four eight foot lengths of 2"x8" pieces of untreated lumber. • One eight foot length of 4"x4" piece of untreated lumber. • 1 pkg of 50 4 inch wood screws (you'll only need 32) • Cardboard or Landscape fabric to cover a 4'x4' area. • Enough quality soil to fill your bed.
Equipment you will need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power or hand saw (all cutting is to be done ahead of time - student's should not be allowed to cut the wood for obvious safety reasons) • Cordless Drill • Wheelbarrow • Shovels and a rake

Step 1 - Pre-Cut and Assemble Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because this is an activity that is to involve students, you will want to pre-cut your lumber and pre-drill your pilot hole ahead of time for safety reasons. Students can then assemble the box at school using only a cordless drill and some wood screws. • Cut your four eight foot lengths of 2'x8' in half • Cut your 4"x4" post into four sections that are 15 ½" inches long (a standard 2"x8" board is not 8" inches wide, but is actually 7 ¾" wide, so in order for your corner posts to be flush with your two 2"x8" sides, they can only be 15 ½" in length. • Pre-drill some "pilot holes" at each end of the eight cut 4' lengths of 4"x8"s. It is important to pre-drill some pilot holes in the side timber to avoid splitting and it also makes it very easy for children to screw the pieces together using a cordless drill
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<p>Step 2 - Prep your site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After choosing your desired location, keeping in mind a south-facing exposure, easy access to water and keeping in mind foot traffic and playground traffic, scrap away any sod or material to form a level 4 $\frac{1}{2}$' x level 4 $\frac{1}{2}$' area (allow for an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ foot to insure that the raised bed fits) • Move and place your assembled 4'x4' raised bed onto your leveled site. • Lay down recycled cardboard or landscape fabric at the bottom of your bed. The cardboard or fabric acts as a deterrent for weeds. Cardboard has the added bonus of being biodegradable and will allow for earthworms to work their way into your box from below. 	
		
<p>Step 3 - Fill your bed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your quality gardening soil already on hand and have students load up a wheel barrow and then fill your garden bed. Plan for a few "spills" when using "child labour". • Use a rake to level your bed 	